

**Amendments to the Claims**

1. (Currently Amended) A buoyancy device comprising a central portion for forming a rear buoyancy area interconnected to a pair of lateral portions each forming an under arm buoyancy area by a pair of front portion forming front buoyancy areas, each of said pair of front portions connecting its adjacent lateral portion to said central portion, said central portion and said pairs of front and lateral portions forming a simulated W-shape when viewed in a plan view, each of said lateral portions projecting from its front portion a distance sufficient to extend under an adjacent arm of a user and provide a portion of said lateral portion positioned behind said user which together with said rear buoyancy area cause the user to float in a more upright position than when a similar conventional buoyancy device is being used.
2. (Currently Amended) A buoyancy device as defined in claim 1 wherein said rear buoyancy area and said pair of front portions diverge relative to each other from said central portion outward to their respective adjacent lateral portions combine when in use on a user to orient said user at an angle  $\beta$  of between 45 and 90 degrees.
3. (Original) A buoyancy device as defined in claim 1 wherein said buoyancy device further comprises a body encircling belt means and first connecting means for releasably connecting said front buoyancy areas to said to said belt means to hold said front buoyancy areas in position on a user.
4. (Original) A buoyancy device as defined in claim 1 wherein said buoyancy device further comprises second connecting means for releasably connecting said central portion to said to said belt means to hold said rear buoyancy area in position on a user.
5. (Original) A buoyancy device as defined in claim 3 wherein said buoyancy device further comprises second connecting means for releasably connecting said central portion to said to said belt means to hold said rear buoyancy area in position on a user.
6. (Original) A buoyancy device as defined in claim 1 wherein said buoyancy device further comprises third connecting means for releasably connecting adjacent portions of said pair front buoyancy areas together.
7. (Original) A buoyancy device as defined in claim 3 wherein said buoyancy device further comprises third connecting means for releasably connecting adjacent portions of said pair front buoyancy areas together.

8. (Original) A buoyancy device as defined in claim 4 wherein said buoyancy device further comprises third connecting means for releasably connecting adjacent portions of said pair front buoyancy areas together.
9. (Original) A buoyancy device as defined in claim 5 wherein said buoyancy device further comprises third connecting means for releasably connecting adjacent portions of said pair front buoyancy areas together.
10. (Original) A buoyancy device as defined in claim 1 wherein said buoyancy device further comprises a fourth connecting means for releasably connecting said central portion to said to said lateral buoyancy areas to hold said rear buoyancy area to said lateral buoyancy areas.
11. (Original) A buoyancy device as defined in claim 3 wherein said buoyancy device further comprises a fourth connecting means for releasably connecting said central portion to said to said lateral buoyancy areas to hold said rear buoyancy area to said lateral buoyancy areas.
12. (Original) A buoyancy device as defined in claim 4 wherein said buoyancy device further comprises a fourth connecting means for releasably connecting said central portion to said to said lateral buoyancy areas to hold said rear buoyancy area to said lateral buoyancy areas.
13. (Original) A buoyancy device as defined in claim 5 wherein said buoyancy device further comprises a fourth connecting means for releasably connecting said central portion to said to said lateral buoyancy areas to hold said rear buoyancy area to said lateral buoyancy areas.
14. (Original) A buoyancy device as defined in claim 6 wherein said buoyancy device further comprises a fourth connecting means for releasably connecting said central portion to said to said lateral buoyancy areas to hold said rear buoyancy area to said lateral buoyancy areas.
15. (Original) A buoyancy device as defined in claim 7 wherein said buoyancy device further comprises a fourth connecting means for releasably connecting said central portion to said to said lateral buoyancy areas to hold said rear buoyancy area to said lateral buoyancy areas.
16. (Original) A buoyancy device as defined in claim 8 wherein said buoyancy device further comprises a fourth connecting means for releasably connecting said central portion to said to said lateral buoyancy areas to hold said rear buoyancy area to said lateral buoyancy areas.
17. (Original) A buoyancy device as defined in claim 9 wherein said buoyancy device further comprises a fourth connecting means for releasably connecting said central portion to said to said lateral buoyancy areas to hold said rear buoyancy area to said lateral buoyancy areas.